

*Government Orders*

Even though Saddam Hussein may be a fanatic and his populous may be 100 per cent behind him or 100 per cent fearful of opposing him, let us not underestimate human nature. If the situation domestically reaches a point where the suffering outweighs the possible benefits of patriotism to the leadership of Iraq, there will be internal problems in that country that he will have to deal with.

I urge our government to put pressure on the Security Council, on Washington and on the other capitals of Europe, particularly the United Kingdom and encourage the Soviet Union to first of all put in place a UN command so that it is an international force in all its aspects. It will be a UN decision if and when direct action is necessary. I think that is extremely important.

There is one other point that I do not think we should totally overlook. I know that, since Neville Chamberlain and the age of appeasement, those who tend to be hawkish as well as others are harking back to those years and saying that Neville Chamberlain should have put Hitler in his place in the 1930s. Even before Chamberlain, when Stanley Baldwin was Prime Minister, the Germans retook the Rhineland and later the Anschluss with Austria, the takeover of Czechoslovakia and finally with the invasion of Poland, there would not have been a World War II. Those are one of the great ifs in history.

There is one school of thought that says that Neville Chamberlain actually understood Hitler better than Churchill did and that Neville Chamberlain knew that absolutely nothing would stop Hitler, and therefore had to beg for time in the final analysis.

We may be confronted with the same kind of situation here. We do not know. At least up until this point it might be worthwhile, not as a major thrust politically or diplomatically, but to start looking for some kind of reasonable compromise.

The reason I introduce this at the end of my remarks is this. Let us look very briefly at the history of the situation. Iraq at one time did have access to the gulf. Kuwait at one time was part of Iraq. Iraq is a major oil producing nation that should have a port on the gulf but does not have one and lost Kuwait back in 1923.

The point I am getting at is this. If all Saddam Hussein wants in the final analysis is that port, I leave it then to the political experts, the heads of state and the military to draw a reasonable conclusion from that possible compromise, keeping in mind that up to 35,000 American young men and women could lose their lives in a matter of days, certainly weeks, and that 250,000 civilians at a minimum could die as well.

• (1330)

Mr. Speaker, I will not be supporting the motion. Hopefully, the United Nations will eventually set up a command. Hopefully, it will be an entirely UN peace-making-peacekeeping force. Hopefully, we will give sanctions the length of time that is needed in order to be effectively applied, so that we can avoid the war that is possibly quite imminent.

**Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception):** Mr. Speaker, I listened with great attentiveness to my hon. colleague and, while I certainly respect and appreciate the comments he has made, it worries me to talk about bombing airports and a quarter of a million civilians. The very thought of war at this particular point in time is there. It is part of the baggage, if you like, of the kind of business we are involved in. I think everybody involved is aware of that.

But I would like to spend a little bit more time in measuring the effect of the embargo's bite. I have done some work on this and I would like to share it with the House.

I would start by saying that it was about a month ago that Saddam Hussein was saying that the children of Iraq are dying because they are being deprived of their food, milk, and medicine. With the embargo then only five weeks old, his charge certainly seemed extremely dubious. The reports from the intelligence community and the diplomats in the area reported, despite the line-ups at the bakeries and the preparations for rationing, no staples had disappeared from the shelves.

To address the hon. member's point, precisely when the economic pressure will begin to hurt, and whether or not it will force Saddam to pull out of Kuwait as the United Nations demand becomes bigger and the Gulf